

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 PC-01

OMB-01 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SCCT-01 DHA-02

SCS-03 SCA-01 FBO-02 /098 W
----- 098920

O 181245Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4144
INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
CINCLANT FOR POLAD PRIORITY
CINCEUR PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 1352

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MZ

SUBJECT: DISTURBANCES IN LOURENCO MARQUES - SITREP AS OF 1430
HOURS LOCAL

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 1351 (NOTAL)

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QM HEAVY FIRING BROKE OUT VICINITY MUNICIPAL PALACE IN DOWNTOWN

LOURENCO MARQUES AT 0915 HOURS DECEMBER 18 FOLLOWING AFTERNOON AND NIGHT OF TENSION CAUSED BY HEAVY TROOP MOVEMENTS AND PUNCTUATED BY SPORADIC BUT OCCASIONALLY HEAVY GUNFIRE. THIS MORNING'S FIRING LASTED THIRTY MINUTES.

2. PRESS AND RADIO MORNING DECEMBER 18 CARRIED BRIEF STORY STATING "BAND OF REACTIONARY ELEMENTS, UNIFORMED AND ARMED, UNLEASHED AN ARMED PROVOCATION AGAINST ARMED FORCES, POLICE, MILITARY POLICE AND POPULATION OF CAPITAL. WITH SUPPORT OF POPULAR MASSES, ARMED FORCES AND PARAMILITARY FORCES TOOK ACTION TO NEUTRALIZE AND CAPTURE THE CRIMINALS. SITUATION WAS RETURNING TO NORMAL AT 0100 DECEMBER 18. NUMEROUS ELEMENTS WERE CAPTURED AND OTHERS WERE KILLED OR WOUNDED."

3. ANNOUNCEMENT PROMISED FORTHCOMING COMMUNIQUE WHICH NOT YET DELIVERED AND WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY THIS MORNING'S EVENTS.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO CALLED PERSONALLY AT 1000 HOURS TO ASK THAT EMBASSY PERSONNEL GO HOME AND STAY THERE FOR REASONS OF SAFETY. HE SAID HE WAS CALLING ALL EMBASSIES WITH SAME REQUEST.

5. CHISSANO SAID GPRM HAD SITUATION UNDER GENERAL CONTROL, BUT THAT THERE WERE STILL SOME GROUPS THAT WERE CAPABLE OF CAUSING FURTHER TROUBLE AND THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TAKING APPROPRIATE MEASURES. HE SAID THAT SINCE HE COULD NOT FORETELL WHAT MEASURES MIGHT BE NECESSARY NOR WHERE THEY MIGHT TAKE PLACE, IT WOULD BE MOST EMBARRASSING IF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS WERE CAUGHT IN MIDDLE AND HE WAS HOPING TO AVOID THAT.

6. CHISSANO WOULD NOT IDENTIFY GROUPS OTHER THAN TO CALL THEM "REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS".

7. ACTIVITY SEEMS TO HAVE BEGUN WITH MINOR DISTURBANCES AND SOME FIRING SHORTLY BEFORE NOON DEC. 17 NEAR BENFICA, TOWNSHIP NORTHWEST OF LOURENCO MARQUES. POPULACE BECAME AWARE OF UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES IN MID-AFTERNOON, AS TROOPS ARMED WITH AUTOMATIC WEAPONS, MACHINE GUNS AND ROCKETS TOOK UP POSITIONS AROUND MILITARY, POLICE AND OTHER SENSITIVE INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RADIO CLUBE DE MOZAMBIQUE, WHERE SEPTEMBER 1974 INCIDENTS TOOK PLACE. MANY TRUCKLOADS OF TROOPS WERE SENT NORTH OF CITY TOWARD BENFICA AND MATOLA. AIRPORT CLOSED, BUT OPENED AGAIN THIS MORNING.

8. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW WHO "REBELLIOUS ELEMENTS" ARE, WIDESPREAD SPECULATION IS THAT THEY ARE MILITARY AND POLICE DISSENTS. WE HAD BEEN HEARING FOR WEEK OR TWO OF SIMILAR

TROUBLE IN BEIRA, BUT HAVE BEEN UNABLE CONFIRM EVEN WITH
RECENT FOREIGN VISITORS THERE.

9. IF ABOVE SPECULATION ACCURATE, EVENTS COULD HAVE BEEN
SPARKED BY WEEKEND OF HARSH CRITICISM AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF
STIFF REFORMS OF MILITARY AND POLICE BY PRESIDENT MACHEL ON
WHICH WE HAVE JUST PREPARED AIRGRAM AND TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.
IN VIEW CURRENT EVENTS, WE ARE TRANSMITTING FULL TEXT SEPTTEL.
ARENALES

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